

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 056936
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:AMBASSADOR EILTS:CEK
APPROVED BY NEA/EGY - AMBASSADOR EILTS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA ONLY

-----150029Z 030975 /66

O 150015Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056936

EYES ONLY FOR CHARGE MATTHEWS FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MARINE SECURITY DETACHMENT

REFERENCE: CAIRO 4318

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL DISAPPOINTING, BUT NOT REALLY UNEXPECTED. SINCE INVESTIGATION WAS CLEARLY NECESSARY, I AM GLAD THAT MAJOR VACCA MADE IT. HE AT LEAST IS ACQUAINTED WITH CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE AND I WOULD ASSUME CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION IN MANNER INSURING THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUNG MARINES WERE FULLY PROTECTED. I AGREE THERE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONCUR IN THE TRANSFER OF THE SEVEN MARINES, ALTHOUGH I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DISCUSS WITH VACCA POSSIBILITY STAGGERING THE TRANSFERS IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE DO NOT SUDDENLY END UP WITH SEVEN TOTALLY NEW AND INEXPERIENCED REPLACEMENTS AT A TIME WHEN THE POST NEEDS KNOWLEDGEABLE MSGS. IN ANY EVENT, I APPRECIATE VACCA
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WILLINGNESS REMAIN TO GET REPLACEMENTS OFF TO A GOOD START.

2. LIKE YOU, I CONSIDER THE SEVEN OFFENDING MARINES AS BASICALLY GOOD YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE SHOWN POOR JUDGEMENT. WHILE RECOGNIZING MARINE REGULATIONS REQUIRE THEIR DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM, I DO HOPE THAT NO OTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM. GIVEN THEIR INADEQUATE

QUARTERS, THE CULTURAL SHOCK, LONG HOURS AND LACK OF A
C.O.L. ALLOWANCE, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT CAIRO IS A
ROUGH POST FOR THE MARINES. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ADVISE
MAJOR VACCA OF MY VIEW AND EMPHASIZE TO HIM THAT, DESPITE
THE DIFFICULTIES, I HAVE NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THE
MANNER IN WHICH THE ENTIRE MARINE DETACHMENT, INCLUDING
THE SEVEN OFFENDERS, HAVE STOOD THEIR ASSIGNED WATCHES AND
PERFORMED SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO
THEM. I TRUST THE C.O. WILL TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN
MAKING HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO WHAT DISPOSITION SHOULD BE MADE
OF THE OFFENDING MARINES.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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